

Pineau Placer Mining Camp
Goldcreek vicinity
Granite County
Montana

HAER No. MT-38

HAER
MONT,
20 - GOCRE.V,
2 -

PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Pineau Placer Mining Camp

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Location: Sec. 11, T8N, R12W
Goldcreek vicinity, Granite County, Montana

UTM: "A" 12.341420.5147280
"B" 12.341545.5147290
"C" 12.341530.5147170
"D" 12.341400.5147160
Quad: Pikes Peak

Date of Construction: ca. 1890s-1930s

Present Owner: Deerlodge National Forest
U. S. Forest Service
Butte, Montana

Original Use: Mining camp

Present Use: Mining camp

Significance: The Pineau Placer Mining Camp was constructed at an early date (1890s or shortly thereafter), and for three decades was associated with Gus Pineau, a well-known miner in the area. Up until the 1940s, the Pineau operation was the richest mine in upper Goldcreek, and in some years during the early part of the twentieth century, was the richest mine in the entire Pioneer-Goldcreek district. Few of the old gold camps in Montana are as complete or as intact as the Pineau settlement.

Researchers: Craig Holstine and Glen Lindeman, AHS, Eastern Washington University, 1983

Transmitted by: Jean P. Yearby, HAER, 1985

This small abandoned mining camp is located in the Flint Creek Range, 10.5 miles southwest of the town of Goldcreek, Montana. It is situated in a forest between the south bank of Goldcreek and U. S. Forest Service Road 5184. There are four standing cabins in fair condition, at least three collapsed or razed structures in the southerly portion of the site, a deteriorated root cellar, and a dilapidated corral and large can dump. Historical documentation indicates that the mining camp probably was established in the mid-1890s and certainly no later than 1905. Nearby are many acres of tailings piles, left from extensive hydraulic mining of the valley terraces. Only a few vestiges of placer mining equipment remain, mainly extensively decayed flumes. The walls of the four standing cabins are constructed of either unpeeled or hand-hewn logs sawn off at the corners and chinked with mortar.

- References: William Harvey Emmons and Frank Cathcart Calkins, Geology and Ore Deposits of the Philipsburg Quadrangle, Montana, U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 78, 1913, p. 264.
- J. T. Pardee, "Gold Placer Deposits of the Pioneer District, Montana. In Contributions to Economic Geology 1951, U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 978, 1951, pp. 69, 79, 93-95.